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HOUSE APPROVES \$350,000 TO HELP UPGRADE THE CHIPPEWA COUNTY DISPATCH CENTER

WASHINGTON, D.C. â€“ Seventh District Congressman Dave Obey (D-WI) announced today that the U.S. House of Representatives has approved his request for \$350,000 in next year's budget for the Department of Justice to help the Chippewa Fire District and the Chippewa County Sherriff's Department upgrade the County's emergency dispatch center.

â€œIn an emergency, the time it takes first responders to get to the scene can mean the difference between life and death,â€” said Obey, the Chairman of the House Appropriations Committee. â€œSo I'm glad the House approved my request for these funds to help modernize the Chippewa County dispatch center so they can minimize the response time when someone calls for help.â€”

The federal funds Obey requested are intended to help upgrade both the software and hardware at the County's Public Safety Answering Point (PSAP) to overcome weaknesses in the existing VHF Analog radio system and to enable the center to fully utilize modern technology to pinpoint emergency calls from mobile phones and to track, in real time, the location of emergency response units.

However, Obey noted that the Justice Department's budget must still be approved by the Senate and signed by the President before it becomes law. "But having these funds included in the House passed bill means that a major hurdle has been cleared," he said.

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